

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of
Amendment of Certain of the
Commission's Part 1 Rules of Practice
and Procedure and Part 0 Rules of
Commission Organization

GC Docket No. 10-44

REPLY COMMENTS OF AT&T INC.

AT&T Inc. (AT&T) files the following reply comments in response to the Commission's *Notice* issued in this proceeding.¹

In the initial comment round, there was general support for expanding the use of docketing and the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).² The Commission's proposal to delegate authority to the staff to dismiss or deny defective or repetitive petitions for reconsideration³ and the proposal to delegate authority to the Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau to identify and terminate certain open dockets garnered more cautious comments.⁴

In its comments, Verizon proposed that the "Commission . . . revise its rules so that the time to file oppositions to Petitions for Declaratory Ruling is not governed by the default ten-day rule found in Rule 1.45(b)."⁵ AT&T supports this suggestion and agrees with Verizon that the

¹ *Amendment of Certain of the Commission's Part 1 Rules of Practice and Procedure and Part 0 Rules of Commission Organization, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 25 FCC Rcd 2430 (2010) (*Notice*).

² Comments of Media Access Project, p. 2 (MAP Comments); Comments of Qwest Corporation, pp. 2-3; Comments of Sprint Nextel, p.10; Comments of Verizon and Verizon Wireless, p. 6-7 ("The Commission could expand the use of the formal docket process in other contexts, but it should avoid expanding it to Enforcement Bureau investigations. . . .Using ECFS in a broader array of dockets would benefit parties and benefit the Commission Staff, much like increased use of ECFS for *ex parte* filings.") (Verizon Comments). *See also*, Comments of AT&T Inc., p. 2 (Counseling against docketing Enforcement Bureau investigations) (AT&T Comments).

³ AT&T Comments, pp. 1-2 (Delegated authority should be strictly limited to exclusive list of grounds for dismissal); Comments of MAP, pp. 1-2 (Three of the categories require "subjective determinations."). *But see*, Sprint Comments, pp. 9-10.

⁴ AT&T Comments, pp. 2-5 ("[T]he CGB must give adequate public notice of its initial conclusion that a docket is a candidate for termination, including the basis for the conclusion, and allow interested persons reasonable opportunity to provide comments."); Verizon Comments, p. 7.

⁵ Verizon Comments, pp. 5-6.

default ten-day rule is “impractical” because, among other reasons, petitions for declaratory rulings “often raise complicated questions” or involve sweeping “policy proclamations” that require more than ten days for interested parties to develop detailed, helpful, and nuanced responses.⁶ The Commission should docket such matters and provide more practical filing deadlines for interested parties—on a par with that provided for notices of proposed rulemaking. The Commission, as well as the industry, would be better served encouraging such input.

Respectfully submitted,



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⁶ *Id.*, p. 6.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Toyin Harris, do hereby certify that on this 8th day of June 2010 a copy of the foregoing "Reply Comments of AT&T Inc." for **GC docket No. 10-44** was served via U.S. first class mail, postage paid, to the parties listed below:

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